domestic legislation have been met on both sides and notifications exchanged to this effect. This process is expected to be completed in the near future.

Permanent Membership of India in Security Council

1122. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US have supported permanent membership to India in the Security Council of the United Nations Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the efforts being made by Government to get the permanent membership and the number of countries in favour of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSEED): (a) to (c) India took the initiative in 1992 in sponsoring the resolution 47/62 entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of Security Council", which was adopted by consensus. Similarly, India played a key role in the adoption of a follow-up resolution 48/26 in 1993. In pursuance of this resolution an open-ended Working Group of the UNGA has been established to consider all aspects of the question of an increase in the membership of the Security Council, and other matters related to the Council. The question of membership of individual countries is not being discussed at this stage in the Working Group.

Discussion on Bilateral Issues between India and Slovakia

1123. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Slovakia recently visited India;

(b) if so, details thereof with details of issues discussed;

(c) whether these issues include bilateral matters;

(d) whether these issues also include sale of latest T-72 Tanks and other defence equipments to India;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether this visit will strengthen the ties between the two countries;

(g) whether Government propose to send some high powered delegation to Slovakia to settle the discussed issues; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSEED): (a) Yes Sir. Mr. Jozef Moravcik, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic paid an official visit to India on July 7-8, 1994

(b) to (h) The Slovak Prime Minister called on President and Vice-President and also had a meeting with Prime Minister in which Ministers and senior officials from both sides were present. MoS(EA) Shri Salman Khurshid called on Prime Minister Moravcik.

Bilateral and international issues of mutual interest were discussed. The Slovak Prime Minister apprised our leadership of his country's position on perception of major global issues, with particular reference to developments in Europe as well as of the internal political and economic situation in Slovakia. He was in turn briefed on the processes of economic liberalisation underway in India and on the Kashmir issue. The Slovak side conveyed that on the Kashmir issue, it favours the Bilateral approach without its internationalisation.

Bilateral matters, in particular prospects of economic cooperation in the light of the ongoing economic changes in India and the Slovak Republic were discussed. Both sides stressed the mutual desire to build upon their past tradition of cooperation